

The Texas Department of Criminal Justice

**Presentation to the House
Corrections Committee on
Charges Related to the Texas-
Mexico Border**

Executive Director Bryan Collier



Interim Charge

Review the existing and anticipated populations in state prisons and city and county jails located near the Texas-Mexico border. Make recommendations for alleviating or addressing any increase or overcrowding that may result as well as any other particularized needs or circumstances that have arisen or could arise as a result of an increase in population in correctional facilities, including, but not limited to, intake capacity, adequacy of facilities and other health and safety considerations. Make recommendations to mitigate any associated costs borne by border counties and municipalities.



May 31, 2021 – Disaster Declaration

Governor Greg Abbott issued a disaster declaration as the number of individuals unlawfully crossing the Texas-Mexico border reached record highs.

Texas Department of Public Safety was directed to use all available resources to prevent criminal activity along the border.

Texas Commission on Jail Standards and Texas Commission on Law Enforcement was directed to work with counties to establish alternate detention facilities and add existing jail capacity.



Operation Lone Star

- In June, \$250 million from TDCJ's Fiscal Year 2023 appropriations was transferred to the Disaster Fund within the Trusteed Programs within the Office of the Governor.
- Discussions began with the Governor's Task Force on Border and Homeland Security regarding utilizing TDCJ facilities for Operation Lone Star.
- The TDCJ Briscoe Unit in Dilley was selected as the first site. Of the 1,384 beds at the unit, 1,008 beds were emptied in June. The remaining TDCJ inmates help support the unit.
- Beginning July 20, 2021, the facility began receiving individuals charged with a state offense.



Briscoe Unit



- **Briscoe Unit is compliant with ACA Standards for Adult Correctional Institutions**
- **Worked closely with the Commission on Jail Standards and Commission on Law Enforcement**
- **Modifications and training brought the unit into compliance with the jail standards**
- **Medical care is provided by the University of Texas Medical Branch**
- **Educational services are provided by Windham School District**





Briscoe Unit

- Individuals arrested by the Department of Public Safety (DPS) under Operation Lone Star are processed and magistrated in Val Verde County with assistance from TDCJ before being transported to the Briscoe Unit.
- Video court hearings and attorney visits are conducted at the unit.





Segovia Unit

- Due to increased need in beds, in September, 1,224 beds, were designated at the Segovia Unit.
- Training was conducted, infrastructure changes were made, and temporary air conditioning was installed to meet standards.
- Individuals are received and processed at Briscoe and then transferred to Segovia.
- Segovia began receiving on September 11th.
- The current population of confinees is:
 - Briscoe 595
 - Segovia 287



Capacity

- **Current Capacity** - **135,922**
- **Idled Beds** - **6,709**
- **Idled Facilities** - **6,260**
- **Closed Facilities** - **3,535**

**Current TDCJ
Population
117,859**

**Projected TDCJ
Population FY2026
138,595**



TDCJ Capacity at Full Utilization - 152,426

HB 9 Appropriations



(in millions)
Estimated Cost

	Briscoe/ Segovia Operations	1000* Bed	Total (HB9)
<i>Increased Staffing</i>	\$ 2.2	\$ 1.1	\$ 3.3
<i>Increased Medical Expenses</i>	\$ 7.4	\$ 3.7	\$ 11.1
<i>Jail Standards Requirements</i>	\$ 6.2	\$ 3.1	\$ 9.3
Total	\$ 15.8	\$ 7.9	\$ 23.7

* Could require the repopulation of a currently idled facility.